

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00785 200725Z

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ACTION INR-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /019 W

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P R 200655Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4174

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0785

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR, LU, IT

SUBJECT: BIO INFORMATION - LUXEMBOURG'S AMBASSADOR JEAN WAGNER

REF: ROME 16078

1. FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON JEAN WAGNER BASED ON EMBASSY FILES. SINCE WAGNER WAS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON FROM 1969 UNTIL 1974, WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL WANT TO UPDATE INFORMATION CONCERNING WAGNER'S PERSONAL ATTITUDES AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS.

2. BORN IN LUXEMBOURG ON MAY 31, 1924, WAGNER STUDIED LAW IN BASEL, LAUSANNE, PARIS AND BRUGGE AND WAS A LAWYER FOR FOUR YEARS BEFORE JOINING THE MFA IN 1955. ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY IN PARIS AND LATER AS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN STRASBOURG, WAGNER ALSO SERVED AS A MEMBER OF HIS COUNTRY'S DELEGATION AT SEVERAL UNGA'S. FROM 1965 UNTIL 1969 HE WAS POLITICAL DIRECTOR OF THE MFA.

3. IN 1957 WAGNER MARRIED LAURA WISSIAK, AN ITALIAN NATIONAL. THEY HAVE THREE SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN. WAGNER SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN.

4. IN OCCASIONAL DEALINGS WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN RECENT YEARS, WAGNER HAS BEEN GENERALLY FORTHCOMING AND WELL INFORMED. HE HAS CLOSE PROFESSIONAL AND GOOD PERSONAL TIES TO PRIME MINISTER (AND FOREIGN MINISTER) GASTON THORN AND IT WAS THORN WHO HANDPICKED WAGNER  
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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00785 200725Z

FOR THE WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENT SHORTLY AFTER BECOMING

FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1969. WAGNER CAN BE HELPFUL IN  
KEEPING THE US AWARE OF CURRENT ATTITUDES IN THE EC.  
WHEN LUXEMBOURG HOLDS THE EC PRESIDENCY  
(JANUARY-JUNE 1976) HE WILL BE AN ACTIVE LOCAL  
REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS ENERGETIC FOREIGN MINISTER. IN  
DEALING WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS, WAGNER EXHIBITS THE  
USUAL LUXEMBOURG SENSITIVITIES CONCERNING THE NEED FOR  
THE US TO KEEP THE SMALLER EC MEMBERS AS WELL INFORMED  
AS THE BRITISH, FRENCH, GERMANS AND ITALIANS. FARKAS

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